

In the Claims:

Please amend as follows the claims attached to the International Preliminary Report On Patentability:

1. (currently amended) ~~Preform~~ A preform used for pulling a ~~fibre~~ fiber, comprising a bulk part (41) and a head part (42) and the head part (42) is attached to the bulk part (41), ~~characterised by that~~ wherein the head part (42) comprises a narrower end (42a) and a wider end (42b), and the wider end (42b) of the head part (42) is connected to the bulk part (41), wherein a heat load directed to said preform will be distributed to the cross section of said bulk (41) part in a predetermined manner.

2. (currently amended) ~~Preform~~ The preform according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterised by that~~ said head part (42) is at least partly cone shaped.

3. (currently amended) ~~Preform~~ The preform according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterised by that~~ said head part (42) comprises amorphous material.

4. (currently amended) ~~Preform~~ The preform according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterised by that~~ said head part (42) and said bulk part (41) are made of compatible materials.

5. (currently amended) ~~Preform~~ The preform according to claim 4, wherein

~~characterised by that~~ said bulk part (41) comprises pure or doped quartz and said head part (42) comprises glass.

6. (currently amended) ~~Preform~~ The preform according to claim 4, wherein ~~characterised by that~~ said bulk part (41) comprises pure or doped phosphate glass and said head part (42) comprises glass.

7. (currently amended) ~~Preform~~ The preform according to claim 4, wherein ~~characterised by that~~ said bulk part (41) comprises pure or doped fluoride glass and said head part (42) comprises glass.

8. (currently amended) ~~Preform~~ The preform according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterised by that~~ said head part (42) comprises material increasing the heat absorption.

9. (currently amended) ~~Preform~~ The preform according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterised by that~~ said head part (42) and said bulk part (41) are at least partly joined together by process of melting and solidifying.

10. (currently amended) ~~Preform~~ The preform according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterised by that~~ said head part (42) and said bulk part (41) are at least partly joined together by a mechanical joint.

11. (currently amended) ~~Preform~~ The preform according to claim 1, wherein

~~characterised by that~~ cross-section of said head part (42) on the side facing said bulk part (41) is substantially equal to the cross-section of said bulk part (41) and the cross-section of said head part (42) opposite to said bulk (41) part is smaller than said cross-section facing said bulk part (41).

12. (currently amended) ~~Preform~~ The preform according to claim 1, wherein ~~characterised by that~~ said bulk part (41) comprises at least one non-homogeneous region.

13. (currently amended) ~~Preform~~ The preform according to claim 12, wherein ~~characterised by that~~ said at least one non-homogeneous region comprises a hole.

14. (currently amended) ~~Preform~~ The preform according to claim 12, wherein ~~characterised by that~~ said at least one non-homogeneous region comprises an amorphous material with an index of reflection difference than the index of reflection of the main material used in said bulk part.

15. (currently amended) ~~Preform~~ The preform according to claim 12, wherein ~~characterised by that~~ said at least one non-homogeneous region comprises an amorphous material that is doped with rare earth.

16. (currently amended) A head part for a preform of a fiber, the head part comprising: ~~fibre characterised by that said head part (42)~~ comprises a narrower end (42a) and a wider end (42b), and the wider end (42b) of the head part (42) can be connected to the bulk part (41),

wherein a heat load directed to said preform will be distributed to the cross section of said bulk (41) part in a predetermined manner.

17. (currently amended) A The head part according to claim 16, wherein characterised ~~by that~~ said head part (42) is at least partly cone shaped.

18. (currently amended) A The head part according to claim 16, wherein characterised ~~by that~~ said head part (42) comprises amorphous material.

19. (currently amended) A The head part according to claim 16, wherein characterised ~~by that~~ said head part (42) comprises material increasing the heat absorption.

20. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ A method for manufacturing a ~~fibre~~ fiber from a perform that comprises a bulk part (41) and a head part (42) is attached to the bulk part (41), the method comprising: ~~the steps of~~

heating a preform so that a surface of the preform is at least partly transformed to a form suitable for pulling a ~~fibre~~ fiber and

directing a pulling effect to at least the transformed part of the preform, and
~~characterised by that the method further comprising the step of~~

controlling at least in the beginning of the heating process at least a part of a heat load directed to said preform by a head part (42) comprising a narrower end (42a) and a wider end (42b) wherein the wider end (42b) of the head part is attached to the bulk part (41).

21. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 20, wherein
~~characterised by that~~ said step of controlling is such that the heat load is more evenly distributed
to the cross section of said surface that it would be without said head part (42).

22. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 20, wherein
~~characterised by that~~ said head part (42) is at least partly cone shaped.

23. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 20, further comprising:
~~characterised by that the method further comprise steps of~~ joining at least partly said head part
(42) to a bulk part (41) of said preform.

24. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 23, wherein
~~characterised by that~~ said step of joining precede said step of heating.

25. (currently amended) ~~Method~~ The method according to claim 23, wherein
~~characterised by that~~ said step of joining further comprises steps of melting and solidifying.